

Phil. Jan. 23. 1865

My dear Dr. Gray

As I hear you have been appointed to lecture in Washington during February - I suppose you soon intend to go there & of course will take Philadelphia on your way. - I write to remind you not to pass through without stopping but to allow us the privilege of a little visit. If Mrs. Gray accompanies you, she will find it necessary to rest on the way, as the journey thence to the Capital would be too great a tax on her strength without a short breathing spell. I should try to make her sojourn pleasant & comfortable, & I earnestly hope she may be induced to come.

When I looked over the photographs you gave me I was very much puzzled to know who two of the cartes-de-visites represented. I dare say you will think me very stupid to forget so soon - a year or two ago you sent me two photographs one of Michaux in his old age, was the other de Jussieu? tall, thin & with eyes cast down.

I hope you have had time to look over your correspondence for more autographs for me. Have you any of Humboldt's letters? or could you obtain one through some of your friends.

We have had a very stormy winter a constant succession of snow storms have made the city very dirty. last-saturday was the eleventh unpleasant-saturday in succession, the children mourn the loss of their holiday week by week - today a pouring rain is carrying the snow off & the streets are rivers.

I noticed your name as one of the pall-bearers at Mr. Everett's funeral - it must have been a solemn occasion as he is a great loss to our country.

What cheering news the holidays brought us, in the fall of Savannah & the capture of Fort Fisher, I feel as if the rebellion could not hold out much longer.

Mr. James desires to be kindly remembered to you & Mrs. Gray, and the children all send love

Hoping soon to have the pleasure of seeing you here

believe me truly yours  
Soabella James -